

[23 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Cancellation of Indo-Pak Sharjah Cricket Match

†376. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a cricket match between India and Pakistan was to be organised at Sharjah for the help of earthquake victims of Gujarat;

(b) if so, under what circumstances the same had to be cancelled; and

(c) whether it has to be cancelled due to pressure of the Minister of Sport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN):

(a) Yes, Sir. A triangular One Day series was scheduled at Sharjah from February 8-11, 2001 between India, Pakistan and Bangladesh for the help of earthquake victims of Gujarat.

(b) The Government was considering the proposal of BCCI, examining the possibility of staging the event in India.

(c) No, Sir.

Manipulation of Balance Sheets of Indian Weightlifting Federation

377. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have handed over the case of recovery of grant of Rs. 5.78 lakh, togetherwith interest, from Shri Gopal Khanra, General Secretary, Indian Weightlifting Federation in 1997-1999, to Delhi Police;

(b) if so, when was this case handed over to Delhi Police and what is its present status; and

(c) whether Government have received reports that the Federation has manipulated Balance Sheets for 1997-98 and 1998-99 and if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The case was handed over to Delhi Police on 17-7-2000 and the same was registered by Delhi Police on 10-11-2000 under section 406/420 IPC. The investigation of the case is in progress.

(c) No, Sir.

Afro-Asian Games

378. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to hold the Afro-Asian Games;

(b) if so, the proposed dates thereof and the countries which have agreed to participate in these games; and

(c) the steps taken to build infrastructure to hold these games and the cost analysis prepared for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These games are proposed to be held from 3rd to 11th November, 2001. For participation in the Afro Asian Games, various Continental Games of Africa and Asia will be qualifying games. First four athletes/teams in each event in the Continental Games will qualify for participation. As such the names of the countries going to participate will be known only after the qualifying rounds are over.

(c) Government has in consultations with Sports Authority of India, CPWD, Indian Olympic Associations and National Sports Federations worked out requirement of upgrading various Stadia and also approximate funds required to carry out the different works for making the infrastructure suitable for Afro Asian Games. As per present estimates, Rs. 30.00 crores for upgradation of existing infrastructure and Rs. 20.00 crores (Government's share) towards conduct of the Games would be required.